# Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Cultural Studies

1st semester, 2019-20

**Course Title** : Language, Culture and Society

**Course Code** : ENG 511

**Number of Credits** : 3

**Duration in weeks** : 15

**Contact Hours Per Week** : Lecture (2 Hours)

: Tutorial (1 Hour)

**Pre-requisite(s)** : Nil

**Prepared by** : Dr. Josephine YAM

**Course Introduction**

This course presents and elucidates the interconnectedness between language, culture and society. It is the aim of the course to direct student to an in-depth and critical discussion on the major issues related to language, culture and society. Issues like culture and language development, intercultural communication, language and social relations, language and cultural identity, language, culture and thought, language variation as well as language change will be discussed.

**Course Outcomes, Teaching Activities and Assessment**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Course Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)** | |
| Upon completion of this course students should be able to: | |
| **ILO1** | demonstrate sound understanding of the interconnectedness between language, culture and society |
| **ILO2** | discuss critically the major issues considered in the course |
| **ILO3** | synthesize ideas, concepts and theories discussed in the course |
| **ILO4** | apply theories introduced in the course to the analysis of sociolinguistic phenomena in societies. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)** | |
| **TLA1** | Exemplify and Discuss Major Issues and Concepts |
| **TLA2** | In-Class Discussion |
| **TLA3** | Individual Presentation |
| **TLA4** | Individual Research Project |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Assessment Tasks (ATs)** | | |
| **AT1** | Presentation and discussion  *Each student has to present a research article/book chapter which can demonstrate their understanding of the issue(s) discussed in this course. Also, at the end of the presentation there will be time for class discussion.* | 30% |
| **AT2** | Research project  *Each student has to work on a research project that is related to the sociolinguistic phenomena/issues of a society. They need to collect authentic data through interviews and/or other research methods.*  *Word limit: 3500-3800* | 70% |
|  | **TOTAL** | **100%** |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Alignment of Course Intended Learning Outcomes, Teaching and Learning Activities and Assessment Tasks** | | |
| **Course Intended Learning Outcomes** | **Teaching and Learning Activities** | **Assessment Tasks** |
| ILO1 | TLA1,2,3,4 | AT1,2 |
| ILO2 | TLA1,2,3,4 | AT1,2 |
| ILO3 | TLA1,2,3,4 | AT1,2 |
| ILO4 | TLA1,2,4 | AT2 |

**Course Outline**

**Week 1: Introduction**

* The Interconnectedness of Language, Culture and Society

*Required Readings:*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| |  | | --- | | Salzmann, Z., Stanlaw, J. M. & Adachi, N. (2012). *Language, Culture, and Society: an Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. pp. 1-8. | |

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Holmes, J. (2013). *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*. New York: Routledge. pp. 1-15.

**Week 2 and 3: Language and Ecology**

* Language and Environment
* The Ecology of Language
* Language and Natural Environment
* Language and Biological Diversity

*Required Readings:*

Fill, A. and Mühlhäusler, P. (eds.). (2001). *The Ecolinguistics Readers – Language, Ecology and Environment*. London and New York: Contiuum. pp. 13-23; 57-66; 109-114.

Fill, A. and Penz, H. (eds.). (2018). *The Routledge Handbook of Ecolinguistics*. New York and London: Routledge. pp.11-25; 40-55.

**Week 4: Culture and Language Acquisition**

* Language Acquisition in Societies
* Cultural Influences upon Language Acquisition
* Social Norm and Language Use

*Required Readings:*

Kramsch, C. (ed.). (2002). *Language Acquisition and Language Socialization: Ecological Perspective.* New York: Continuum. pp.31-172.

Schieffelin, B. B. and Ochs, E. (eds.). (1995). *Language Socialization across Cultures*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. pp.80-96.

**Week 5: Reading Week**

**Week 6:** **Language Variation**

* + Dialects and Standard
  + Social, Regional and Situation variation
  + Language Marginalisation and Discrimination

*Required Readings:*

Salzmann, Z., Stanlaw, J. and Adachi, N. (2004). *Language, Culture, and Society: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology*. Colorado/Oxford: Westview Press. pp.167-176.

<http://www.languageeducationpolicy.org/whatareleps/languagemarginalization.html>

<https://www.sadtu.org.za/docs/subs/2011/africanlanguages.pdf>

**Week 7-8: Language and Cultural Identity**

* The Communities of Language User
* Cultural Identities
* Cultural Stereotypes
* Linguistic Nationalism

*Required Readings:*

Kramsch, C. and Widdowson, H. G. (2001). *Language and Culture*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. pp.65-77.

Nunan, D. and Choi, J. (eds.). (2010). *Language and Culture: Reflective Narratives and the Emergence of Identity*.New York: Routledge. pp.1-13; 147-154.

**Week 9-10: Language and Social Relations**

* Speech Communities
* Social Circles and Language
* Power and Solidarity
* Gender and Language

*Required Readings:*

Duff, P. A. and Hornberger, N. (eds.). (2008). *Language Socialization: Encyclopaedia of Language and Education Volume 8*. New York: Springer. pp.87-126; 145-160.

Hudson, R.A. (1996). *Sociolinguistics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. pp.122-131.

Llamas, C, Mullany, L. and Stockwell, P. (eds.). (2007). The Routledge Companion to Sociolinguistics. Oxon/New York: Routledge. pp.49-92.

**Week 11-12: Language, Culture and Thought**

* Linguistic and Cultural Relativity
* Sapir-Whorf Linguistic Relativity Hypothesis

*Required Readings:*

Gumperz, J. and Levinson, S. (eds.). (1999). *Rethinking Linguistic Relativity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. pp.1-36; 70-96.

Lucy, J. A. (1996). *Language Diversity and Thought: A Reformulation of the Linguistic Relativity Hypothesis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. pp.11-68.

**Week 13-14: Language Change**

* + Reconstructing Protolanguages
  + External and Internal changes
  + Pidgin and Creoles
  + Linguistic Imperialism

*Required Readings:*

Fill, A. and Penz, H. (eds.). (2018). The Routledge Handbook of Ecolinguistics. New York and London: Routledge. pp.121-134.

Llamas, C, Mullany, L. and Stockwell, P. (eds.). (2007). The Routledge Companion to Sociolinguistics. Oxon/New York: Routledge. pp. 173-199

Salzmann, Z., Stanlaw, J. and Adachi, N. (2004). *Language, Culture, and Society: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology*. Colorado/Oxford: Westview Press. pp.135-166.

**Week 15: Reading Week**

**Academic Honesty**

You are expected to do your own work. Dishonesty in fulfilling any assignment undermines the learning process and the integrity of your University degree. Engaging in dishonest or unethical behavior is forbidden and will result in disciplinary action, specifically a failing grade on the assignment with no opportunity for resubmission. A second infraction will result in an F for the course and a report to University officials. Examples of prohibited behavior are

* Cheating – an act of deception by which a student misleadingly demonstrates that s/he has mastered information on an academic exercise
  + Copying or allowing another to copy a test, quiz, paper, or project
  + Submitting a paper or major portion of a paper that has been previously submitted for another class without permission of the current instructor
  + Turning in written assignments that are not your own work (including homework)
* Plagiarism – an act of representing the work of another as one’s own without giving credit
  + Failing to give credit for ideas and material taken from others
  + Representing another’s artistic or scholarly work as one’s own
* Fabrication – the intentional use of invented information or the falsification of research or other findings with the intent to deceive

**To comply with the University’s policy, term paper has to be submitted to VeriGuide.** (In our case, Moodle includes VeriGuide verification).

**Resources**

Aitchison, J. (2001). *Language Change: Progress or Decay?* . Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Bolton, K. (2003). *Chinese Englishes: A Linguistic History.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Chambers, J.K. (1995). *Sociolinguistic Theory: Linguistic Variation and Its Society.* Oxford: Blackwell Publishers.

Culpeper, J., Katamba, F., Kerswill, P., Wodak, R. and McEnery, T. (eds.). (2009). E*nglish Language: Description, Variation and Context*. Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan.

Duff, P. A. and Hornberger, N. (eds.). (2008). *Language Socialization: Encyclopaedia of Language and Education Volume 8*. New York: Springer.

Eckert, P. and S. McConnell-Ginet. (2003). *Language and Gender*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Fill, A. and Mühlhäusler, P. (eds.). (2001). *The Ecolinguistics Readers – Language, Ecology and Environment*. London and New York: Contiuum.

Fill, A. and Penz, H. (eds.). (2018). *The Routledge Handbook of Ecolinguistics*. New York and London: Routledge.

Gumperz, J. and Levinson, S. (eds.). (1999). *Rethinking Linguistic Relativity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Holmes, J. (2013). *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*. New York: Routledge.

Hudson, R.A. (1991). *Sociolinguistics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Jourdan, C. and Tuite K. (eds). (2006). *Language, Culture, and Society: An introduction to Linguistic Anthropology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Kramsch, C. (ed.). (2002). *Language Acquisition and Language Socialization: Ecological Perspective.* New York: Continuum.

Kramsch, C. and Widdowson, H. G. (2001). *Language and Culture*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Llamas, C, Mullany, L. and Stockwell, P. (eds.). (2007). The Routledge Companion to Sociolinguistics. New York: Routledge.

Lucy, J. A. (1996). *Language Diversity and Thought: A Reformulation of the Linguistic Relativity Hypothesis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Nunan, D. and Choi, J. (eds.). (2010). *Language and Culture: Reflective Narratives and the Emergence of Identity*.New York: Routledge.

Ochs, E. (1988). *Language Acquisition and Language Socialization in a Samoan Village*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Romaine, S. (2000). *Language in Society: An Introduction to Sociolinguistics.* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Salzmann, Z., Stanlaw, J. M. and Adachi, N. (2012). *Language, Culture, and Society: an Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Sampsom, G, Gil, D. and Trudgill, P. (eds.). (2009). *Language Complexity as an Evolving Variable*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Schieffelin, B. B. and Ochs, E. (eds.). (1995). *Language Socialization across Cultures*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. pp.80-96.

Trivedi, H.C. (1978). Culture in Language Learning. *ELT Journal*.XXXII (2): 92-97.

Wierzbicka, A. (1992). Semantics, Culture, and Cognition: Universal Human Concepts in Culture-Specific Configurations. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Wright, B. L. (1989). The Power of Articulation. In Karp, I. and Arens, W. (eds.). *Creativity of Power: Cosmology and Action in African Societies*. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press.